

REMARKS:

This application has been carefully reviewed and amended in view of the Restriction Requirement dated August 4, 2004. As a result of this review a number of minor errors were found which have been corrected in the amendments made to the specification and also to Figure 9. In that regard, various grammatical errors have been corrected as well as typographical errors. Changes have been made to the specification for consistency with the drawings, such as referring to Figure "16A" as it appears in the drawings rather than "16a". It is further noted that page 19 (in the paragraph beginning on page 18, line 3) has been amended to describe what is illustrated in Figure 16A. The amendments to the specification also include additions to describe reference numerals such as switch 32 and posts 28-30. Since those amendments are based on what is illustrated, new matter is not involved. Finally, pages 28 and 30 have been amended to correctly state that the angle B is angle C minus angle A.

The amendment to Figure 9 is to provide antecedent basis for the discussion of that figure on, for example, pages 12 and 14 which refer to angle B being in Figure 9. The amendment to Figure 9 conforms to the illustrations shown, for example, in Figure 11 regarding angle B and to the written description which repeatedly states that angle B is angle C minus angle A.

The claims have been carefully reviewed and amended for the

sake of clarity and accuracy. In addition, Claims 45-53 have been added to complete the claim coverage. Since the addition of these claims includes a total of nine additional claims, including one additional independent claim, a supplemental fee of \$124.00 is required. The Commissioner is authorized to charge that fee and any other fee required by this amendment to Deposit Account No. 03-2775.

The Restriction Requirement is a two-stage Restriction Requirement. The first restriction is to the two groups of inventions. Group I relates to the knife conditioning apparatus. Group II relates to the knife sharpener. Applicants elect, with traverse, the claims directed to Group I. Traversal is made to this election in that the claims of Group I are part of the combination of the claims in Group II. Accordingly, if Examiner Shakeri finds the claims of Group I to be patentable it is respectfully requested that he also examine the claims of Group II.

The second stage of the Restriction Requirement was an election of species with regard to the sharpening apparatus and conditioning apparatus as disclosed in Figures 13-24. It is assumed that in making this election of species requirement Examiner Shakeri considered there to be four different species. Figures 13-16A relate to a conditioning apparatus wherein the knife blade moves. Figures 17-18 relate to a sharpener which

includes one sharpening stage and a conditioning stage. Figures 19-20 relate to a sharpener which includes two sharpening stages and a conditioning stage. Figures 23-24 relate to a conditioner wherein the object having the hardened surface moves. In accordance with this Restriction Requirement applicants elect the specie of Figures 13-16A.

Of the originally presented claims, Claims 1-3, 6-13, 39 and 44 are readable generically or specifically on the elected group and elected specie. With regard to newly added Claims 45-53, Claims 45-51 are also readable on the elected group and elected specie.

Claim 52 is dependent on Claim 1 and recites the conditioning apparatus as being part of a knife sharpener having at least one sharpening station. If Claim 52 is considered as thereby being directed to a sharpener then Claim 52 is not readable on the elected group. Since, however, Claim 52 is dependent on Claim 1, if Claim 1 is allowed then Claim 52 should also be allowed.

Claim 53 is a method claim which states in method terminology the features of elected Claim 1 including the functional references in Claim 1 to the knife. As such, although Claim 53 is a method claim it should be considered as being part of the elected group and elected specie.

Respectfully submitted,

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In the Drawings

Amend Figure 9 as indicated in the attached replacement sheet of drawings to add the angle B.